

1 CORINTHIANS
CALLED OUT
SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM



Sermon: **Love Must Govern Our Knowledge (1 Corinthians 8)**

Date: **October 16, 2016**

The church in Corinth had many different groups and factions within the church. The more 'mature' Christians in the Corinthian church understood that all idols are false gods that have no significance. As such, they had no qualms about eating food that had been sacrificed to idols. In first century Corinth, there were many restaurants located in temples. These restaurants cooked and served food that had been sacrificed to a false god in the temple. Many of the 'mature' Christians in the church ate at these restaurants with a clear conscience. However, there were some 'weaker' believers who had recently come out of idolatrous lifestyles. In seeing the 'mature' believers eating food sacrificed to idols, these 'weaker' believers understood this to be an endorsement of idolatry. Although the 'mature' believers weren't endorsing it, their actions were causing the 'weaker' believers to stumble. In this week's study, we will learn the importance of considering how our actions might affect other people in the church. We need to consider our weaker brothers and sisters. We must use our knowledge to serve people in love as opposed to using it to serve ourselves.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read 1 Corinthians 8 and ensure that you've listened to Sunday's sermon.
 - a. Verses 1-3 explain the relationship between love and knowledge. What is the purpose of knowledge?
 - b. What are some examples of ways that we can use knowledge to puff ourselves up (v. 1)? What are some examples of ways that we can use knowledge to serve and build other people up (v. 1)?
 - c. Describe the relationship between love and knowledge that Paul is describing here in verses 1-3. How does our love inform our knowledge? How does our knowledge inform our love?
 - d. What does Paul mean when he writes, "But if anyone loves God, he is known by God," in verse 3? How does our love of God prove that we are saved?
 - e. In verse 5, Paul says that "there are many 'gods' and many 'lords.'" What does he mean by this?
 - f. What do verses 4 & 6 teach us about idols and the existence of God? What does verse 6 teach us about the deity of Christ? What does it teach us about his relationship to the Father?

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- g. What does verse 7 teach us about the current situation that Paul is addressing in the church?
- h. What is Paul's admonition in verse 9?
- i. How could it be that eating in a temple could cause another brother to sin (v. 10)? What are some examples of activities we might engage in that are not inherently sinful but could cause another brother or sister to stumble?
- j. What exactly is concerning about what these 'mature' believers are doing in this passage? Is it the actual act of eating food sacrificed to idols or is it how it affects weaker Christians? Why is understanding this distinction important for us?

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. Is it possible to have love without knowledge? Why or why not? Is it possible to have knowledge without love? Why or why not?
3. What are some practical ways that we can use our knowledge to serve people and build up the church?
4. What does this passage teach us about the kind of attitude we ought to have toward other Christians in the church, especially weaker Christians? How should our attitude toward them inform our actions?
5. What are some examples of actions or activities that we might engage in that could cause other Christians to stumble?
6. What can we do to be careful that our rights and our actions do not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak (v. 9)?